

placed beneath, so as to reflect light upon the under sides of the fish. One of these prisoners survived for three years under conditions so strangely different from its ordinary habits of life, and all of them exhibited the development of spots of pigment on their lower surfaces. The experimenters concluded that it is exposure to light that causes the coloration of the upper parts of the bodies, not only of flounders, but of other fish, and, conversely, that it is to the comparative absence of light that the whiteness of under sides of fish is due. They extend the same principle to explain the colorless condition of the skins of many animals that pass all their lives in caves.

Bird Songs.

Naturalists have long been puzzled as to how birds learn to sing. Does it come natural to a bird of a certain species to sing the song common to its kind or does it learn to imitate whatever song it most hears during the early days of its life? Experiments made by a well known student of bird life proved that most birds simply learn by imitation. He placed young linnets to be reared by skylarks, woodlarks, titlarks and other breeds, and in every case the linnets learned the song of his foster parents. Again, a number of linnets were reared where they had no chance of hearing the song of any bird at all. In due course they began to sing, but their song was entirely original. The cuckoo, however, seems to be an exception, for although it is almost invariably reared by foster parents of any species but its own, it always sings to perfection its own peculiar song, quite uninfluenced by the vocal efforts of its guardians.

Hard to Catch Up.

Two Silesians, seated in a music hall, began to argue about the music of Wagner. The argument as it progressed grew heated. The upshot was that the younger challenged the older Silesian to a duel.

But the older Silesian declined to fight.

"No, no," he said. "I refuse to meet you. The risks are not equal. You, you see, are a bachelor, whereas I am a married man with three children. I'll tell you what to do. Go get married and wait till you've a family as large as mine. Then, when our risks are alike, come and challenge me again."

The younger man complied. He married. Three years passed and one day three years later he went, accompanied by a nursemaid, to his opponent's home.

"Here I am," he said fiercely. "My wife is at home. In this coach are my three children. Now for the duel."

But the older man shook his head. "Not yet awhile," he said. "I have five now."

Exercise For Business Men.

The average city business man without physical impediments to fight against can probably get along successfully on such an exercise schedule as the following:

First.—Five minutes each day of purely muscular exercise, such as can be taken perfectly well in one's room without any special apparatus.

Second.—Short intervals during the day of fresh air, brisk walking, deep breathing. This can all be secured in the regular order of the day's business. A man can easily spend as much as half an hour walking out of doors every day. This is for heart, lungs and digestion.

Third.—The reservation of at least one day a week for rest and recreation, for being out of doors, for playing games, etc. This is essential. This is for both body and mind. A man who thinks he can get along without at least one vacation time a week simply proves his ignorance.—World's Work.

The Bite of a Girl.

The bite of a girl may be as productive of poisonous germs as improperly

to the state. D. Miller of In a lecture a bite of a en bring a quicker ne death than the bite Professor Miller, who has a special study of the bacteria of the mouth, said that only a short time ago he experimented on a beautiful girl in Germany and found that an arrow dipped in saliva from her mouth would send its victim in death throes more terrible than one dipped in the venom of the most deadly snake.—What to Eat.

Twins Born in Different Years.

"I have often been present at the birth of twins," said an old nurse. "Only once was I present, though, when the twins were born in different years."

"Twins born in different years? You are crazy," said the young bride.

"Not a bit of it," said the old nurse. "The thing happened in Pittsburg in 1899. The first twin was born at 11:30 o'clock on the night of Dec. 31, 1899, and the second was born at 1 o'clock in the morning of Jan. 1, 1900. There are, ma'am, a number of other cases recorded of twins born in different years."

The Cat Had Chickens.

The old housekeeper met the master at the door on his arrival home.

"If you please, sir," she said, "the cat has had chickens."

"Nonsense, Mary," laughed he. "You mean kittens. Cats don't have chickens."

"Was them chickens or kittens as you brought home last night?" asked the old woman.

"Why, they were chickens, of course."

"Just so, sir," replied Mary, with a twinkle. "Well, the cat's had 'em!"

A Comprehensive Verdict.

A child in an English town was killed by a steam atomizing apparatus falling on it. The coroner's jury brought in the following curious verdict: "Death resulted from shock following bronchitis and whooping cough, caused through the shaking of the house by the firing of a gun at the government proof butts on the Pulmstead marshes."

Raising His Wages.

Y.—You know I told you a few days after he employed me that he said he'd raise my wages in a month or so?

Z.—Yes. And didn't he?

"No. I misunderstood him. He said he'd try to raise my first week's wages by that time. I haven't had a shilling yet."—London Tit-Bits.

His Bucolic Business.

"That was a perfectly lovely gentleman I met last night," declared the pretty milliner. "He has a good, reliable business too."

"What is it?" asked her friend.

"Why, he sells farm implements," continued the pretty girl.

"What kind of farm implements?"

"Buckets—nothing but buckets. He told me he kept a bucket shop."—Detroit Free Press.

Ptomaines.

Ptomaines, according to Quain, are alkaloids produced by the decomposition of animal substances. The word ptomaine was at first restricted to alkaloids produced by cadaveric decomposition, but it is now also employed to designate alkaloids of animal origin formed during life as a result of chemical changes induced by some agency or other acting within the organism.

Youth and Pleasure.

Youth is not the age of pleasure. We then expect too much, and we are, therefore, exposed to daily disappointments and mortifications. When we are a little older and have brought down our wishes to our experience, then we become calm and begin to enjoy ourselves.—Lord Liverpool.

Fortune.

Fortune is like the market, where many times if you can stay a little the price will fall, and again it is sometimes like a silyl's offer, which at first offereth the commodity at full, then consumeth part and part and still holdeth up the price.—Bacon.

A proper secrecy is the only mystery of able men. Mystery is the only secrecy of weak and cunning ones.

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